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## Numerical Features of the Book of Jonah

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## Numerical Features of the Book of Jonah

### A New Approach to its Compositional Structure

Please read the [General Introduction](#) and the Introduction to the [Embedded Poetry](#).

### The compositional unity of the story of Jonah

What meets the eye immediately in terms of storytelling is that the book divides into three episodes:

Episode 1 (1,1-16): Jonah at sea: he tries to escape from YHWH but ends up in the sea.

Episode 2 (2,1-11): Jonah in the belly of a great fish: he thanks God for his deliverance.

Episode 3 (3,1-4,11): Jonah in and at Nineveh: he fulfils his mission, but mistrusts God's judgement.

This strongly suggests that it is a compositional unity. However, many modern scholars regard the Prayer of Jonah (2,2-10) as an inset poem, arguing that a prayer of thanksgiving is totally inappropriate on the lips of Jonah who is still in the belly of the fish. In my opinion, they fail to realize that when Jonah finds himself in the 'belly of the fish', he has actually just been saved from the 'belly of Sheol' (2:3), and that YHWH has 'brought him up alive from the deep' (2:7). That he offers a prayer of thanksgiving from there is perfectly in place, because the 'great fish' functions as a life-boat used by YHWH to rescue Jonah from the waters of death. The 'belly of the fish' is the safe haven Jonah finds himself in after he had been rescued by Yahweh from drowning.

Others assert that the disobedient and recalcitrant Jonah we encounter in Chapters 1 and 4 cannot be the humble and thankful person we meet in Chapter 2, and that there is no trace of the prophet's confession of guilt or his praying for forgiveness. But why should his conversion and rehabilitation be a prerequisite for Yahweh to free him from the belly of the fish? What matters is that Yahweh has already saved him from drowning and will now also free him in order to let him fulfil his commission.

Scholars who raise objections against the suitability of the prayer in its context, are obviously influenced by the interpretation of the story of Jonah ascribed to Jesus in Matthew 12:40. There, the Old Testament image of the 'belly of Sheol' (representing *the sea*) and the image of the 'belly of *the fish*' (relating to *the fish* as the safe haven), are not differentiated but understood as one and the same: 'the sea monster's belly', *"Just as Jonah was in the sea monster's belly for three days and three nights, the Son of Man shall be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"*. The story of Jonah should be interpreted from its own perspective, not from that of the New Testament writers who had their own way of interpreting Old Testament texts.

Such objections used as arguments to buttress the idea that the prayer was secondarily inserted into the narrative simply cannot hold water against an unbiased interpretation of the story. I agree with the growing number of scholars who argue that the prayer is genuinely integral within its context: G.M. Landes (1967), G.H. Cohn (1969), O. Kaiser (1973), J. Magonet (1976/1992), B.S. Childs (1978), D. Stuart (1987), F.W. Golka (1991), D.L. Christensen (1998), D.A. Dorsey (1999), I. Willi-Plein (2001), E. Achtemeier (2005), and J. Jeremias (2007). See also my plea (2014) for all the [embedded poems](#) as integral parts within their context.

The quantitative structural analysis confirms the prayer's firm embedding in the narrative. The evidence strongly suggests that the prayer was not selected because it more or less suited the context, but rather points to its being specifically composed to suit the context with which it forms a structural unity. It cannot be excluded that the author used one or more existing poems which he adapted to let the prayer function meaningfully. It has clearly been designed to function as a prayer of thanksgiving, for having found a temporary refuge in the belly of the fish, the prophet offers Yahweh praises for his escape from death by drowning. At the same time, he anticipates Yahweh's next saving act: to free him from the belly of the fish. The author expressly left out of consideration as totally irrelevant the idea of a confession of guilt by the disobedient prophet.

The prayer is an essential component for the flow of thought in the story, especially in light of the fact that in Chapter 1 the sailors *pray*, each to his own god (1,5) and collectively to YHWH (1,14) and in Chapter 3 the people of Nineveh are ordered by the king *'to cry mightily to God'* (3,8). In Chapter 1, on board of the ship, everyone prays except Jonah. That he *prays* from the belly of the great fish stands to reason: it is now his turn. Moreover, without Jonah's prayer, the reference to his stay of three days and three nights in the belly of the fish would hang in the air as a piece of casual information, which it is not. From a rhetorical point of view, Jonah's prayer is an indispensable element to fill in this crucial period.

In the present quantitative structural analysis I shall produce evidence to show that the book as a whole, as it came from the hand of the author, is a logical, coherent literary unity shaped as a numerical composition.

## Various views on the structural design of the book of Jonah

- R.F. VON UNGERN-STERNBERG (*Der Tag des Gerichts. Habakuk, Zephania, Jona, Nahum*, in: Die Botschaft des Alten Testaments, 23/IV, Calwer Verlag: Stuttgart, 1960, pp. 133-202): 1,1-16; 2,1-11; 3,1-10; 4,1-11 (chapter arrangement).
- L.C. ALLEN (*The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah*, in: The New International Commentary on the Old Testament, Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, 1976, pp. 173-235): I: 1,1-3; 4-5; 6-8; 9-12; 13-16; 2,1-11; II: 3,1-4; 5-9; 10; 4,1-3; 4-11.
- H.W. WOLFF (*Dodekapropheten 3 Obadja und Jona*, in: BK XIV/3, Neukirchner Verlag: Neukirchen-Vluyn, 1977, 53-151): 1,1-3; 4-16; 2,1-3,3a; 3b-10; 4,1-11.
- A.S. VAN DER WOUDE (*Jona, Nahum*, in: POT, Callenbach: Nijkerk, 1978): 1,1-3; 4-16; 4,17-2,11 | 3,1-3a; 3b-10; 4,1-11.
- D. STUART (*Hosea – Jonah*, in: WBC 31, 1987, pp. 224-510): 1,1-3 | 4,1-16 | 2,1-11 | 3,1-3a | 3,3b-10 | 4,1-11.
- J.M. SASSON (*Jonah*, in: AB 24B, 1990): 1,1-3; 4-6; 7-12; 13-16 | 2,1-3a; 3b-10; 11 | 3,1-4; 5-10; 4,1-6; 7-11.
- F.W. GOLKA (*Jona*, in: Calwer Bibelkommentare, Stuttgart, 1991): 1,1-3; 4-6; 7-10; 2,1-11 | 3,1-3; 4-5; 6-9; 10; 4,1-4; 5-11.
- K.A. DEURLOO (*Jona*, in: Verklaring van de Hebreeuwse Bijbel, Callenbach: Baarn, 1995): 1,1-3; 4-5; 6; 7-10; 11-13; 14-16 | 2,1-2; 3-10; 11 | 3,1-3a; 3b-5; 6-9; 10 | 4,1-4; 5-6; 7-9; 10-11.
- D.A. DORSEY (*The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis-Malachi*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999, pp. 290-295): 1,1-3; 4-16 | 2,1-11 | 3,1-3a, 3b-10; 4,1-4; 5-11. A deep-drilling study of the structural design.
- E. ACHTEMEIER (*Minor Prophets II*, in: New International Commentary, 253-84): §1 1,1-3; §2 4-6; §3 7-8; 9-12; §4 13-16; §5 2,1-9; 10; §6 3,1-4; §7 3,5; 6-9; 10; §8 4,1-4; §9 5-8; §10 9-11.
- J. JEREMIAS (*Die Propheten Joel, Obadja, Jona, Micha*, ATD 24/3, 2007, 75-112): 1,1-3; 4-6; 7-10; 11-16; 2,1-2; 3-10; 4,1-11.
- J.D. NOGALSKI (*The Book of the Twelve: Hosea-Jonah*, in: Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary 18a, Macon GA, 2011, 401-57): I: 1,1-3; 1,4-16; II: 1,17-2,1; 2,2-9; 2,10; III: 3,1-3; 3,4; 3,5; 3,6-9; 3,10; IV: 4,1-4; 4,5-8; 4,9-11. (4 scenes: Jonah on the sea; Jonah in the sea; Jonah in Nineveh; Jonah outside Nineveh).

## Additional Literature dealing with the structural design of the book

- R. PESCH, "Zur konzentrischen Struktur von Jona 1", in: *Biblica* 47 (1966), 577-581.
- S.M. LANDES, "The Kerugma of the Book of Jonah – The Contextual Interpretation of the Jonah Psalm", in: *Interpretation* 21 (1967), 3-31.
- G.H. COHN, *Das Buch Jona im Lichte der biblischen Erzählkunst*, in: *Studia Semitica Neerlandica* 12, Assen, 1969.
- O. KAISER, "Wirklichkeit, Möglichkeit und Vorurteil. Ein Beitrag zum Verständnis des Buches Jona", in: *Ev. Th.* 33 (1973), 91-103.
- P. TRIBBLE, *Rhetorical Criticism: Context, Method and the Book of Jonah*, Minneapolis, 1978.
- B.S. CHILDS, "The Canonical Shape of the Book of Jonah", in: G.A. TUTTLE (ed.), *Near Eastern Studies: Essays in Honor of W.S. Lasor*, Grand Rapids, 1978.
- J. MAGONET, *Form and Meaning – Studies in Literary Techniques in the Book of Jonah*, Sheffield, 1983.
- M. STERNBERG, *The Poetics of Biblical Narrative*, Bloomington, Indiana, 1985, 318-320.
- D.L. CHRISTENSEN, "Narrative Poetics and the Interpretation of the Book of Jonah", in: *Directions in Biblical Hebrew Poetry*, ed. E.R. Follis (JSOTSup 40), Sheffield, 1987, 29-48.
- J. MAGONET, "The Book of Jonah" in: *The Anchor Bible Dictionary* III, 1992, 936-942.
- H.J. OPGEN-RHEIN, *Jonapsalm und Jonabuch* (SBS 157), Stuttgart, 1994.
- D.A. DORSEY, "Literary Architecture and Meaning in the Book of Jonah", in: David Merling (ed.) *To Understand the Scriptures* (FS W.H. Shea), Berrien Springs, Mich., Andrews University, 1997, 57-69.
- V.M. WILSON, *Divine Symmetries: The Art of Biblical Rhetoric*, New York: University Press of America, 1997, 146-156.
- I. WILLI-PLEIN, "Jona als Beispiel narrativer Diskussionskultur", in: *FS K. Seybold*, Münster: Ugarit Verlag, 2001, 217-229.
- D.L. CHRISTENSEN, *The Hebrew Bible: A Study Guide*, BIBAL Press, North Richland Hills, TX, 1998, 243-245.

## Outline based on extant layout markers, content, and numerical features

The paragraphs marked **blue** are individually and/or collectively highlighted by **17** and **26**.

### Episode 1: 1,1-16 Jonah on the sea fleeing from YHWH:

- §1: 1,1-3 YHWH commissions Jonah but he flees: [] 3 vs; 41 words.  
 §2: 1,4-6 A hurricane at sea: everyone prays except Jonah: [] 3 vs; 54 words.  
 §3: 1,7-10 Jonah is singled out and unmasked as a Hebrew: [] 4 vs; 74 words.  
 §4: 1,11-16 Jonah confesses and is thrown overboard: [] 6 vs; **85 (5x17)** words.

### Episode 2: 2,1-11 Jonah prays to YHWH who sets him free: P

11 vs; 112 words.

### Episode 3: 3,1-4,11 Jonah at Nineveh fulfilling his mission:

- §1: 3,1-3 YHWH sends Jonah to Nineveh to denounce the city: [] 3 vs; 36 words.  
 §2: 3,4-9 Jonah proclaims his message: Nineveh repents: [] 6 vs; **85 (5x17)** words.  
 §3: 3,10-4,3 YHWH spares Nineveh but Jonah objects: S 4 vs; **68 (4x17)** words.  
 §4: 4,4-5 YHWH reproves Jonah; he leaves the city: [] 2 vs; 25 words.  
 §5: 4,6-7 God ordains a plant for shade, but it withers: [] 2 vs; 30 words.  
 §6: 4,8-11 God ordains a hot wind and reproaches Jonah: Col. 4 vs; **78 (3x26)** words.

**Jonah 1-4** No less than **four paragraphs** are highlighted by **17** and **26**. 48 vs; 688 words.

## Quantitative structural analysis of the book of Jonah

It cannot be excluded that some of the multiples of **17** and **26** are due to coincidence

Vs	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	S/P	Structural Design
<b>Episode 1 1,1-16</b>							<b>Jonah on the sea fleeing from YHWH</b>
1	1,1	8	27	1	8		§1 YHWH commissions Jonah but he flees
2	1,2	12	44		20		
3	1,3	21/41	88/159	2-3	41/41	[]	
4	1,4	13	51	4	54		§2 A hurricane at sea: everyone prays except Jonah
5	1,5	22	94		76		
6	1,6	19/54	68/213		95/54	[]	In terms of letters, 1,4 and 1,6 have multiples of 17.
7	1,7	18	77		113		§3 Jonah is singled out and unmasked as a Hebrew
8	1,8	20	72		133		
9	1,9	16	59	5	149		
10	1,10	20/74	78/286	6	169/74	[]	§3 has 286 (11x26) letters; 1,10 has 78 (3x26).
11	1,11	12	45		181		§4 Jonah confesses and is thrown overboard
12	1,12	18	73		199		
13	1,13	12	49		211		
14	1,14	23 85 (5x17)	83	7-9	234		The paragraph is highlighted by 85 (5x17) words.
15	1,15	9	35		243		V. 16 has 51 (3x17) letters.
16	1,16	11	51/336	10-11	254/85	[]	1,1-16 has 254 words. 11x YHWH.
16	<b>Episode 1</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>11x</b>	<b>254</b>		
<b>Episode 2 2,1-11</b>							<b>Jonah prays to YHWH who sets him free</b>
17	2,1	15	57	12	269		
18	2,2	7	29	13	276		
19	2,3	12	49	14	288		
20	2,4	11	51		299		
21	2,5	11 104 (4x26)	46		310		The prayer itself, including the introduction, clearly delimited by a Setumah after v. 10, which marks the end of the prayer, has 104 (4x26) words.
22	2,6	9	36		319		
23	2,7	12	51	15	331		See the Hebrew text on page 6 below.
24	2,8	12	48	16	343		
25	2,9	5	22		348		Until this point, the end of the prayer, 26 verses and 17 instances of the name YHWH.
26	2,10	10	43/432	17	358/104	S	
27	2,11	8	29/29	18	366/8	P	
27	<b>Episode 2</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>18x</b>	<b>112</b>		<b>Episode 2: 7 instances of the name YHWH.</b>

Episode 3 3,1-4,11						Jonah at Nineveh fulfilling his mission
28	3,1	7	25	19	373	§1 YHWH sends Jonah to Nineve to denounce it
29	3,2	14	52		387	
30	3,3	15/36	63	20	402/36	
31	3,4	14	59		416	§2 Jonah proclaims his message: Nineveh repents  3,5-6 The people and king of Nineveh repent: 26 w. The paragraph is highlighted by 85 (5x17) words. 3,8-9 Be in sackcloth, pray, and abandon your wicked ways; maybe God will spare us: 26 words.
32	3,5	11 11+	54		427	
33	3,6	15 15/26	58		442	
34	3,7	19 85 (5x17)	81		461	
35	3,8	16 16+	71		477	
36	3,9	10 10/26	38		487/85	
37	3,10	18	69		505	§3 YHWH spares Nineve but Jonah objects  The paragraph is highlighted by 68 (4x17) words.
38	4,1	7 68 (4x17)	24		512	
39	4,2	32	113	21-22	544	
40	4,3	11	35/241	23	555/68	
41	4,4	5	19	24	560	§4 YHWH reproves Jonah; he leaves the city 4,5 is made up of 68 (4x17) letters.
42	4,5	20/25	68/87		580/25	
43	4,6	20	83	25	600	§5 God ordains a plant for shade, but it withers
44	4,7	10/30	46/129		610/30	
45	4,8	22	87		632	§6 God ordains a hot wind and reproaches Jonah The paragraph is highlighted by 78 (3x26) words.
46	4,9	15 78 (3x26)	54		647	
47	4,10	18	63	26	665	Episode 3 (3,1-4,11) 8x YHWH.
48	4,11	23	83/287		688/78	
21	Episode 3	322	744	8x	322	
48	Jonah 1-4	688	2700	26x	688	Sealed by 26 instances of the name YHWH.
47	<Heading>	680 (40x17)	2673	25x	680 (40x17)	Highlighted by 680 (40x17) words.

**Observation 1** If we regard the 8 words in 1,1 as a heading, the story of Jonah is made up of precisely 680 (40x17) words. Then the story starts with a divine speech (1,2) and ends with a divine speech (4,10-11). This means that 1,2-4,11 is in its entirety governed by the divine name number 17 symbolizing YHWH's all-presence in the events described in the book. The number 40 may be a happy coincidence, but it may have been chosen deliberately in order to refer to the 40 days mentioned in Jonah's message of doom in 3,4b.

Additionally, 30 of the 48 verses (63%) and 420 of the 688 words (61%) are highlighted by the divine name numbers 17 and 26. Some multiples may be due to coincidence.

**Observation 2** The text of the book as a whole is sealed by 26 instances of the name YHWH. Significantly, the passage from the beginning of the book to the end of Jonah's prayer (1,1-2,10) is sealed by 26 verses and 17 instances of the name YHWH.

**Observation 3** In terms of the 81 words of the Prayer, its arithmetic centre is constituted by the 3 words in 2,6c, with 39 words on either side (81 = 39 + 3 + 39).

סוף חבוש לראשי Seaweed is wrapped about my head!

This vivid description of Jonah's state during his sinking to the bottom of the sea offers a most eloquent depiction of his near death situation, with his head already swathed in bandages as that of a corpse. Therefore, I regard these words as the consciously designed meaningful centre, containing the gist of the poem. Note the correspondence of the surrounding 39 words to the 39 words spoken by Yahweh in 4:10-11 and the 39 words spoken by Jonah in 4:2-4.

This shows that the prayer is a skillfully designed poem embedded in a painstakingly composed story.

### Crucial passages highlighted by the divine name numbers 17 and 26.

1. Jonah confesses and is thrown overboard (1,11-16): 85 (5x17) words.
2. The prayer with the introduction, delimited by S (2,1-10): 104 (4x26) words.
3. Jonah proclaims his message of doom and Nineveh repents (3,4-9): 85 (5x17) words.
4. The people and king of Nineveh repent (3,5-6): 26 words.

5. Fast, don sackcloth and pray to God; maybe he will spare us (3,8-9): **26** words.
6. YHWH spares Nineve but Jonah objects (3,10-4,3): **68** (4x17) words.
7. God ordains a hot wind and reproaches Jonah (4,8-11): **78** (3x26) words.

### Words ascribed to God and to the humans in the book of Jonah

YHWH/Elohim	Jonah	The Sailors	The King of Nineve
1 1,1-2 8+12=20	1 1,9 2+14=16	1 1,6 6+13=19	3,7-9 7+38=45: See Observation 7.
2 2,11 3+0=3	2 1,12 2+16=18 34 (2x17)	2 1,7 4+8=12	An alternative is 3+42=45:
3 3,1-2 7+14=21	3 2,2-10 8+81=89	3 1,8 2+18=20 26	What is significant in this case is
4 4,4 2+3=5	4 3,4b 2+5=7 153	4 1,10a 6+3=9	that the humans speak altogether
5 4,9a 4+5=9	5 4,2-3 4+39=43 (9x17)	5 1,11a 2+6=8 17	163+67+42=272 (16x17) words.
6 4,10-11 2+39=41	6 4,8b 5+3=8	6 1,14 4+19=23	
	7 4,9b 1+5=6		
<b>Totals: 26+73=99</b>	<b>Totals: 24+163=187 (11x17)</b>	<b>Totals: 24+67=91</b>	

**Observation 4** The speeches in which God orders Jonah to go to Nineveh (1+3) have altogether **26** words.

The next two divine speeches (4-5) have **8** words, bringing the four speeches up to **34** (2x17) words.

The concluding speech (6) has **39** words, which represent the numerical value of יהוה אחד, YHWH is One: 10+5+6+5=26 + 1+8+4=13 = 39.

In addition, the introductions to the divine speeches have altogether **26** words, which is underscored by the **26** instances of the name YHWH in the book.

**Observation 5** The words devoted to the **7** utterances of Jonah, including the introductions, are significant: to **1-2** **34** (2x17) words; to **3-7** **153** (9x17) words; altogether **187** (11x17) words.

**Observation 6** As for the words spoken by the sailors: in utterances **2-3** they speak **26** words. When they reproach Jonah and ask him what they should do (4-5), **17** words are devoted to their speaking.

**Observation 7** There is no consensus about the precise delimitation of the proclamation in 3,7-9. Is it **7** words introduction and **38** proclamation, or **3** words introduction and **42** proclamation?

In the first case, 7+38=45, the proclamation are made up of **156** (6x26) letters (Eikelenboom), which may be conscious design, seeing the striking number of letters in 1,4 (**51**); 1,6 (**68**); 1,10 (**78**); 1,7-10 (**286**=11x26); 1,16 (**51**); 2,4 (**51**); 2,7 (**51**), and 4,5 (**68**). See the table above. Moreover, the fact that the proclamation is introduced by לאמר underscores this delimitation.

In the second case, 3+42=45, the introductions to the human utterances have **51** (3x17) words (resembling the **26** words introducing God's words), while they speak altogether **272** (16x17) words.

Also deliberately intended?

**The Hebrew text is to be found on the next full page**



## Episode 1: 1,1-16

## Jonah 1

YHWH: 1 1,1-2 8+12=20

- 1 וַיְהִי דְבַר-יְהוָה אֶל-יוֹנָה בֶן-אֹמֶתַי לֵאמֹר:  
 2 קוּם לֵךְ אֶל-נִינְוָה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה וְקִבֵּא עָלֶיהָ כִּי-עֲלֹתָהּ רַעְתָּם לִפְנֵי:  
 3 וַיָּקָם יוֹנָה לִבְרֹחַ תְּרִשִּׁישָׁה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה וַיֵּרֶד יָפוֹ וַיִּמְצָא אֹנִיָּה בָּאָה  
 תְּרִשִּׁישׁ וַיֵּתֶן שָׂכָרָהּ וַיֵּרֶד בָּהָּ לִבְּנוֹא עִמָּהֶם תְּרִשִּׁישָׁה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה:  
 4 וַיַּהֲנוּ הַטִּיל רֹחַ-גְּדוֹלָה אֶל-הַיָּם וַיְהִי סַעַר-גְּדוֹל בַּיָּם וַתֵּאָנִיָּה חֹשְׁבָה לְהִשָּׁבֵר:  
 5 וַיִּירָאוּ הַמַּלְאָכִים וַיִּזְעַקוּ אִישׁ אֶל-אֱלֹהָיו וַיִּטְּלוּ אֶת-הַכְּלִים אֲשֶׁר בָּאֹנִיָּה אֶל-הַיָּם  
 לְהִקָּל מַעַלְיָהֶם וַיּוֹנֶה יָרֵד אֶל-יָרֵכְתִּי הַסְפִּינָה וַיִּשְׁכַּב וַיִּרְקָם:

The captain 1,6 6+13=19

- 6 וַיִּקְרַב אֵלָיו רֶב הַחֲבֵל וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ  
 מַה-לָּךְ נִרְדָּם קוּם קִבֵּא אֶל-אֱלֹהֶיךָ אוֹלֵי וַיַּעֲשֶׂת הָאֱלֹהִים לָנוּ וְלֹא נֹאכָד:

The sailors 1,7 4+8=12

- 7 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל-רֵעֵהוּ לְכוּ וְנִפְלֵא גִדְּלוֹת  
 וְנִרְדָּעַת בְּשָׁלְמִי הָרָעָה הַזֹּאת לָנוּ וַיִּפְּלוּ גִדְּלוֹת וַיִּפֹּל הַגִּזְרֵל עַל-יוֹנָה:

The sailors 1,8 2+18=20

- 8 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו הַיָּרֵדָה נָא לָנוּ בְּאֲשֶׁר לְמִי-הָרָעָה הַזֹּאת לָנוּ  
 מַה-מְּלֹאכְתְּךָ וּמֵאֵינן תִּבְּנוֹא מָה אֲרָצְךָ וְאִי-מִזֶּה עִם אֶתָּה:

Jonah: 1 1,9 2+14=16

- 9 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם עֲבָרִי אֲנִי  
 וְאֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲנִי יָרֵא אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה אֶת-הַיָּם וְאֶת-הַיַּבָּשָׁה:

The sailors 1,10a 6+3=9

- 10 וַיִּירָאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים יִרְאָה גְּדוֹלָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו מַה-נָּעַת עֲשִׂיתָ  
 כִּי-יִרְדְּעוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים כִּי-מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה הוּא בָּרוּחַ כִּי הֵיכִל לָהֶם:

The sailors 1,11a 2+6=8

- 11 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו מַה-נַּעֲשֶׂה לָּךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּק הַיָּם מַעַלְנוּ כִּי הַיָּם הוֹלֵךְ וְסַעַר:  
 12 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם שְׂאוּנִי וְהַטִּילְנִי אֶל-הַיָּם וַיִּשְׁתַּק הַיָּם  
 מַעַלְיָכֶם כִּי יוֹרֵעַ אֲנִי כִּי בְשָׁלִי הַסַּעַר הַגְּדוֹל הַזֶּה עֲלֵיכֶם:

Jonah: 2 1,12 2+16=18

- 13 וַיַּחֲתְרוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים לְהִשָּׁבֵב אֶל-הַיַּבָּשָׁה וְלֹא יָכְלוּ כִּי הַיָּם הוֹלֵךְ וְסַעַר עֲלֵיהֶם:  
 14 וַיִּקְרָאוּ אֶל-יְהוָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ אָנָּה יְהוָה אֵל-נָא נֹאכָדָה בְּנַפְשׁ הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה  
 וְאַל-תֵּתֵן עָלֵינוּ דָם נָקִיא כִּי-אַתָּה יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר חָפַצְתָּ עֲשִׂיתָ:

The sailors 1,14 4+19=23

- 15 וַיִּשְׂאוּ אֶת-יוֹנָה וַיִּטְּלוּהוּ אֶל-הַיָּם וַיַּעֲמֵד הַיָּם מִזְעָפוֹ:  
 16 וַיִּירָאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים יִרְאָה גְּדוֹלָה אֶת-יְהוָה וַיִּזְבְּחוּ זִבְחַת לַיהוָה וַיִּדְּרוּ נְדָרִים:

## Episode 2: 2,1-11

## Jonah 2

2,1 15 words

- 1 וַיִּמֶן יְהוָה דָּג גְּדוֹל לִבְלֹעַ אֶת-יוֹנָה וַיְהִי יוֹנָה בְּמִעֵי הַדָּג  
 שְׁלֹשָׁה יָמִים וּשְׁלֹשָׁה לַיְלוֹת:

Jonah: 3 2,2-10 8+81=89

- 2 וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל יוֹנָה אֶל-יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו מִמִּעֵי הַדָּגָה: 3 וַיֹּאמֶר  
 קָרָאתִי מִצָּרָה לִי אֶל-יְהוָה וַיַּעֲנֵנִי  
 מִבְּטָן שְׂאוֹל שָׁנַעְתִּי שְׁמַעַת קוֹלִי:

- 4 וַתִּשְׁלִיכֵנִי מִצִּוְלָה בְּלִבְבַּי יָמִים וָנָהָר וַיִּסְבְּכֵנִי  
 כָּל-מִשְׁפָּרֶיךָ וְנִגְלִיךָ עָלַי עֲבָרִי:

- 5 וְאֲנִי אֲמַרְתִּי נִגְרַשְׁתִּי מִנֶּגֶד עֵינֶיךָ  
 אֲדָּה אוֹסִיף לְחַבֵּיט אֶל-הַיִּכָּל קִדְשְׁךָ:

- 6 אֶפְפוּנִי מִיָּם עַד-נֶפֶשׁ תְּהוֹם וַיִּסְבְּכֵנִי  
 סוּף חֲבוּשׁ לְרֹאשִׁי: 7 לְקַצְבֵּי הָרִים

- יָרֵדְתִּי הָאָרֶץ בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ בַּעֲדִי לְעוֹלָם  
 וַתַּעַל מִשְׁחַת חַיִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי:

- 8 בְּהִתְעַמֵּף עָלַי נִפְשִׁי אֶת-יְהוָה זָכַרְתִּי  
 וַתִּבְּנוֹא אֵלֶיךָ תִּפְלִתִי אֶל-הַיִּכָּל קִדְשְׁךָ:

- 9 מִשְׁמָרִים תְּבַלִּי-שׁוֹא חֲסִדִּים יַעֲזֹבוּ:  
 10 וְאֲנִי בִקְוֹל תוֹדָה אֲזַבְּחָה-לָּךְ

- אֲשֶׁר נִדְרַתִּי אֲשַׁלֵּמָה וַיִּשְׁמַעְתָּה לִּיהוָה: 11

2,1-10 104 (4x26) words

YHWH: 2 1,11 3+0=3

- 11 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לְדָג וַיִּקָּא אֶת-יוֹנָה אֶל-הַיַּבָּשָׁה: 12

## Episode 3: 3,1-4,11

## Jonah 3

YHWH: 3 3,1-2 7+14=21

1 ויהי דבר־יהוה אל־יונה שְׁנֵית לֵאמֹר:

2 קום לך אל־נינוּה העיר הגדולה וקרא אליה את־הקריאה אשר אנכי דִּבֵּר אליך:

3 ויָקָם יונה וילך אל־נינוּה כִּדְבַר יְהוָה ונינוּה היתה עיר־גְּדוּלָּה

לֵאלֹהִים מִחֻלָּף שְׁלֹשֶׁת יָמִים: 4 ויַחַל יונה לִבְרֹא כְעִיר מִחֻלָּף יוֹם אֶחָד

Jonah: 4 3,4b 2+5=7

וַיִּקְרָא וַיֹּאמֶר עוֹד אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם ונינוּה נִהְפָּכָה:

5 וַיֵּאמְנוּ אֲנָשֵׁי נִינוּה בָּאלֹהִים

26 וַיִּקְרְאוּ־צוֹם וַיִּלְבְּשׁוּ שָׂקִים מִגְדוּלָם וּעֹד־קִטְנָם:

6 וַיִּגַע הַדָּבָר אֶל־מֶלֶךְ נִינוּה ויָקָם מִכִּסְאוֹ וַיַּעֲבֹר אֶדְרֵתוֹ

מֵעָלָיו וַיִּכַּס שָׁק וַיֵּשֶׁב עַל־הָאֹפֶר:

King of Nineveh: 3,7-9 7+38=45

7 וַיִּזְעַק וַיֹּאמֶר בְּנִינוּה מִטַּעַם הַמֶּלֶךְ וּגְדָלָיו לֵאמֹר

הָאָדָם וְהַבְּהֵמָה הַבְּקָר וְהַצֹּאן אֵל־יִטְעֲמוּ

מֵאוֹמָה אֶל־יָרְעוּ וּמִים אֶל־יִשְׁתּוּ:

156 (6x26) letters

8 וַיִּתְּכֶסּוּ שָׂקִים הָאָדָם וְהַבְּהֵמָה וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל־אֱלֹהִים בְּחֻזָּקָה

For an alternative (3+42=45) see the table above: וַיֵּשְׁבוּ אִישׁ מִדֶּרֶכּוֹ הַרְעָה וּמִן־הַחֲמֹס אֲשֶׁר בְּכַפֵּיהֶם:

and Observation7.

9 מִי־יִזְדַּע יָשׁוּב וְנָחַם הָאֱלֹהִים וְשָׁב מִחֻרּוֹן אָפּוֹ וְלֹא נֶאֱבָר:

10 וַיֵּרָא הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־מַעֲשֵׂיהֶם כִּי־שָׁבוּ מִדֶּרֶכָם הַרְעָה

וַיִּנָּחֶם הָאֱלֹהִים עַל־הַרְעָה אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר לַעֲשׂוֹת־לָהֶם וְלֹא עָשָׂה:

## Jonah 4

1 וַיִּרַע אֶל־יוֹנָה רָעָה גְדוּלָּה וַיַּחַר לוֹ:

Jonah: 5 4,2-3 4+39=43

2 וַיִּתְּפִלֵּל אֶל־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר

אָנָּה יְהוָה חֲלוּאַיִתָּה דְּבָרֵי עַד־חַיּוֹתַי עַל־אֲדָמָתִי

עַל־כֵּן קָדַמְתִּי לְבָרֵךְ תַּרְשִׁישָׁה כִּי יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אַתָּה אֶל־חַנּוּן וְרַחוּם

אֲרֵךְ אָפִים וְרַב־חֶסֶד וְנָחַם עַל־הַרְעָה:

3 וַעֲתָה יְהוָה קַח־נָא אֶת־נַפְשִׁי מִמֶּנִּי כִּי טוֹב מוֹתִי מִחַיִּי: 8

YHWH: 4 4,4 2+3=5

4 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה הִיטֵב תָּרָה לָךְ:

5 וַיֵּצֵא יוֹנָה מִן־הָעִיר וַיֵּשֶׁב מִקְדָּם לָעִיר וַיַּעַשׂ לוֹ שֵׁם סֹכָה וַיֵּשֶׁב

תַּחְתֶּיהָ בְּצֹל עֵד אֲשֶׁר יֵרָאֶה מִחֵיהָ בָּעִיר: 6 וַיִּמֶן יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים

קִיקְיֹן וַיַּעַל מֵעַל לַיֹּנָה לִהְיוֹת צֹל עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ לְהַצִּיל לוֹ מִרְעָתוֹ

וַיִּשְׁמַח יוֹנָה עַל־הַקִּיקְיֹן שֶׁמַּחַח גְּדוּלָּה:

7 וַיִּמֶן הָאֱלֹהִים תּוֹלַעַת בַּעֲלֹת הַשָּׁחַר לִמְחַרֵּת וַתֵּךְ אֶת־הַקִּיקְיֹן וַיִּיבֹשׁ:

8 וַיְהִי כִּזְרֹחַ הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וַיִּמֶן אֱלֹהִים רוּחַ קָדִים חֲרִישִׁית

וַתֵּךְ הַשָּׁמֶשׁ עַל־רֹאשׁ יוֹנָה וַיִּתְּעַלֶּף

Jonah: 6 4,8b 5+3=8

וַיִּשְׁאַל אֶת־נַפְשׁוֹ לָמוֹת וַיֹּאמֶר טוֹב מוֹתִי מִחַיִּי:

YHWH: 5 4,9a 4+5=9

9 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־יוֹנָה הִיטֵב תָּרָה־לָךְ עַל־הַקִּיקְיֹן

Jonah: 7 4,9b 1+5=6

וַיֹּאמֶר הִיטֵב תָּרָה־לִּי עַד־מוֹת:

YHWH: 6 4,10-11 2+39=41

10 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה

אַתָּה חֹסֵף עַל־הַקִּיקְיֹן אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עֲמִלְתָּ בּוֹ וְלֹא גִדַּלְתָּ

שִׁבְן־לִילָה הִיא וּבֶן־לִילָה אָבָר:

11 וְאַנִּי לֹא אֲחֹס עַל־ נִינוּה הָעִיר הַגְּדוּלָּה

אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁכֹּה הַרְבֵּה מְשֻׁתִּים־עֹשִׂיהָ רַבּוֹ אָדָם

אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדַע בֵּין־יָמֵינוּ לְשִׁמְאֹל וּבַהֲמָה רַבָּה: